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COLLEGE

TABLE 2. Location of houses in relation to each other, Site Ke8

House #	Size of main room	Extra rooms	Size	Distance from preceding house in paces
1	28' × 22'	2	3' × 7' 10' × 10'	
2	24' × 22'	2	10' × 10' 11' × 13'	7
3	25' × 23'	1	10' × 10'	18
4	21' × 23'	1	15' × 10'	10
5	26' × 24'	0		2

spot and located a few more bones and one large bead. Only a four-foot strip of land, lying between the top of the cutbank of the road and the area Mr. Doser had worked with his tractor remained undisturbed. The site was undoubtedly a graveyard, but the area has been disturbed to so great an extent as to be of dubious value.

Ke7

Location: Sec. 10, T. 5 N., R11W. (Kenai C-4)

There are three house depressions in a field and two more in the woods on the property of Mr. Coyle located just off of the Beaver Loop Road approximately seven miles east of Kenai. We excavated House 1 because it had suffered the least damage during the field clearing. It was twenty-four by twenty feet with an eight- by ten-foot extra room. The walls were two feet high. The floor layer was just under the sod indicating that the house was not very old. Also, the floor layer itself was not very deep indicating that the house was probably not lived in for very long. The fireplace was located in the center of the room between the outside entrance and the entrance to the extra room. The northeast one-fourth of the main room appeared to be lined with folded birch bark while the rest of the floor was earthen. The extra room was floored with logs which were in a late stage of decay. There were a number of large rocks along the north wall of the extra room leading us to believe that the room was used for steam baths as well as sleeping.

In all, we found forty-three black, red, and white beads, assorted pieces of white china with blue markings, a six-inch piece of wrought iron, two small pieces of sheet copper, some beaver teeth, and assorted small animal bones. Some of these artifacts are shown in Figure 7.

Mr. Coyle has found two stone adzes and other worked items while clearing land. Mr. Coyle also told us that burning green birch would cause the area around the fire to become cemented. After we had removed the floor layer the fireplace stood like a pillar. The fireplaces were raised above the floor layer and consisted of sand held in by log cribbing (Fig. 6).

TABLE 3. Location of houses in relation to each other, Site Ke9

House #	Size of main room	Extra rooms	Size	Distance from preceding house in paces
1	20' × 11'	1	8' × 10'	
2	29' × 25'	0		23
3	18' × 22'	1	8' × 8'	12
4	28' × 22'	1	10' × 10'	40
5	28' × 23'	1	8' × 10'	10
6	23' × 26'	2	15' × 12' 10' × 10'	7
7	21' × 24'	1	8' × 8'	55

There is a small creek about fifty feet from House 1, and the field that contains the three houses is on a small rise that overlooks a spruce flat which leads to the Kenai River three-fourths of a mile away. None of the other houses was excavated.

Ke8

Location: Sec. 10, T. 5 N., R11W. (Kenai C-4)

There are five house depressions ninety feet south of Beaver Loop Road which are either on the highway right-of-way or on Mr. Coyle's property. They average twenty-four by twenty-three feet and two of them have two extra rooms. Four are in excellent condition and are probably not very old. The walls protrude a good two and one-half feet above the surrounding ground level making them easy to spot from the road. One of the houses is in poor condition and difficult to locate. There were no obvious middens visible. We did not excavate at this site.

Ke9

Location: Sec. 10, T. 5 N., R11W. (Kenai C-4)

There are seven house pits one-fourth mile south of Beaver Loop Road about fifty yards from the Kenai River. One of the pits was extremely well preserved with the walls being almost three feet high. The house pit closest to the river was used as a chicken yard and was only a few paces from an old chicken house. The people who owned the property were away for the summer so we did not excavate in the houses. We did dig into one midden finding a number of fire-broken rocks and clamshells.

Ke10

Location: 60°43' 5" N. Lat., 151°07' W. Long. (Kenai C-3)

One-eighth of a mile south of the Kenai Pipeline Company right-of-way crossing on Bishop Creek, there are four storage pits. These pits are located on

Ke11. It is 9 cm. in length, 7.2 cm. high, and 4.5 cm. in width. It is made of a fine-grained basalt and has a ground groove across its upper surface where it was hafted. The adz is a common artifact in the Kenai area. A number of people have collected them, and DeLaguna mentions them often in her work (DeLaguna, 1934) (Fig. 12, h).

A whetstone 12.8 cm. in length and 2.5 cm. wide made out of a dark slate-like material was found on the floor layer of House 1 at Ke14. The stone is square on two edges giving the worker three surfaces to use. Three other oddly shaped stones were encountered in this house, but they were unidentifiable as to function (Fig. 12, f).

Three rock fragments discovered on the floor layer of House 1 at Ke7 showed signs of having been used in some process of pounding or grinding red ocher. The pores of the rocks are plugged with a reddish powder. The fragments are from 2 to 3.5 cm. in length (Fig. 12, g).

Osgood, in his work *The Ethnography of the Tanaina*, mentions that the Kenai people liked to put paint on almost "everything." The method of manufacturing paint is given by Osgood as follows: "To make the red paint, they put a red mineral (probably red ocher or hematite) in the concavity of a small rock and place another stone on top. Then they set the whole thing in the center of a fire and cook it for five or six hours. They scrape out the residue and smash it up. Before the actual application they mix this powder with water in a stone mortar" (1937:117).

Five rolls of birch bark from 18 cm. wide and 4 cm. in diameter to 0.5 cm. wide and 1 cm. in diameter were encountered on the floor layer of House 1, and Ke7. The smallest roll was coiled so tightly that it resembled a piece of leather. Birch bark was used for a number of purposes in the Kenai area including baskets, bowls, cooking pits, boats, and roofing (Osgood, 1937). Figure 12 shows the several pieces mentioned above (a-e).

Objects of European Manufacture

There were seven small pieces of china (1.5 cm. to 0.7 cm. in size) encountered on the floor layer of House 1 at Ke7. Although the fragments of china are too small to identify, two of the pieces have blue markings that resemble a piece on exhibit at the University of Alaska Museum. The latter was excavated in 1958 from the Tlingit fort at Sitka destroyed by the Russians in 1804 (West, 1959). It is interesting to note that Osgood comments on the fact that the Tanaina Indians, who were fond of shell beads, traded with the natives in the vicinity of Sitka (Osgood, 1937:52) (Fig. 13, d).

Altogether forty-three glass beads were found in the excavation House 1 at Ke7. It has already been mentioned that the Tanaina traded with the Sitka natives for shell beads. The Tanaina placed much value upon beads and even sewed them into their clothes, especially along seams of garments and on boots, belts, and hats. Beads then were undoubtedly a highly valued trade item among the Tanaina and early Russians. Most of the beads found were cylindrical.

ranged from 2 to 5 mm. in diameter, and were red, black, and white (Fig. 13, c).

One large bead (5 mm.) in diameter was located on the surface of a cutbank at Ke6. This bead was found with a number of human bones suggesting that the beads were burial offerings.

A piece of iron that looked like it may have been part of a cooking pot was also found in House 1 at Ke7. The piece is 10.7 cm. long and 4 cm. wide (Fig. 13, a).

A piece of copper 3.6 cm. on a side and roughly square was also found in House 1 at Ke7. Native copper was gained in trade from the upper Inlet people who in turn obtained it from the Copper River people. Copper was probably also used for trade between the Russians and Tanaina. The piece found had a hole in it indicating it may have been used for ornamentation. A number of residents in the Kenai area have copper artifacts that were found locally (Fig. 13, b).

An interesting piece of iron, 16.7 cm. long and coiled at the ends, was also found at House 1, Ke7. There is a small white stone set in the center of each coil. The piece of iron resembles the style of knife handle found in the area. The two coiled ends would be drawn up together forming a handle. Osgood mentions these knives and describes them as follows: "The knives are long, thin, and have handles ending in double spirals" (Osgood, 1937:102). From this description it would seem that the knives are all one piece with the ends of the handles being split and coiled. The resemblance is too great, however, to classify it as anything other than a knife handle of the design Osgood mentions. The piece compares favorably with the appropriate parts of Kutchin knives on display at the University of Alaska Museum. The handle was probably an attempt to copy the original design with the use of material available. (Fig. 13 shows these several items.)

HUMAN REMAINS

A few human bones were collected from the surface of a cutbank next to the Sterling Highway at site Ke6. Most of the bones had been picked up by Mr. Charles Doser, the owner of the property, after they washed down during spring runoff. The entire collection consisted of two skull fragments with the auditory meatuses intact, along with a number of smaller fragments; a pelvic fragment, a vertebral section, and one complete phalange. All of these bones were picked up on the surface and had washed down from an area that had been greatly disturbed by machinery.

FAUNAL REMAINS

The faunal remains collected consist of two beaver teeth, the neurospine of a porpoise, three caribou leg bone fragments that had been cracked to

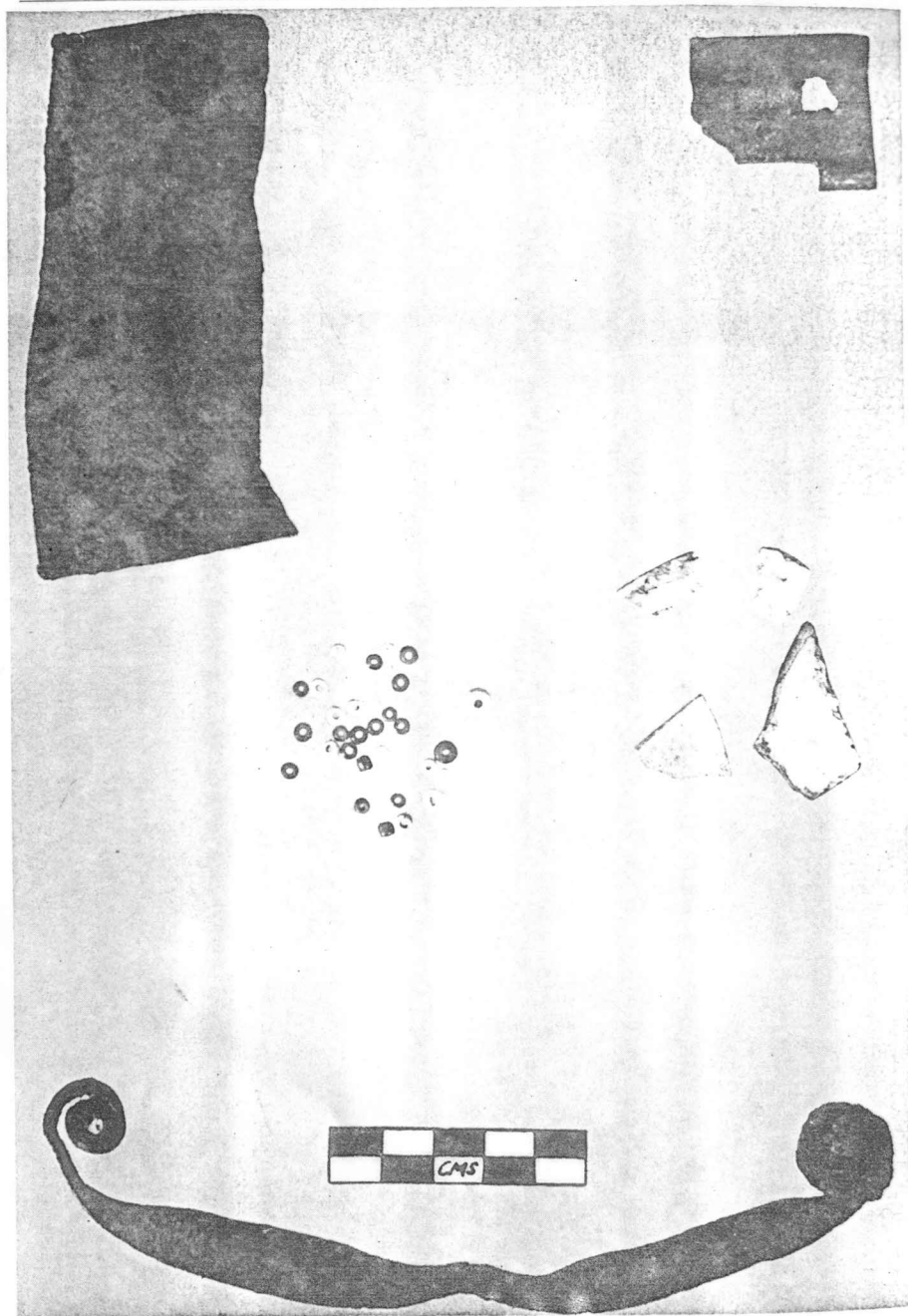


Figure 13. Objects of European manufacture. a, 1 piece of iron from cooking pot; b, 1 piece of copper with hole in it; c, black, red and white glass beads of various sizes; d, 4 pottery fragments; e, knife handle with stones set in the spiral.

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